

**PATENT APPLICATION**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
U.S. Application No. 09/072,622

**REMARKS**

Applicants express their appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended in an interview on May 15, 2001. These remarks and amendments address the substance of that interview.

Claims 1-36 are all the claims pending in this application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 11-13, 14-19, 22-24, 25-28, 29-31, and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conway (USP 5,444,476) in view of Lewen et al. (USP 5,341,374). The Examiner has rejected claims 9, 20, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conway in view of Lewen as applied to claims 1, 4, and 29 above, and further in view of Nakajima (JP401252087A). The Examiner has rejected claims 10, 21, and 33 as being unpatentable over Conway in view of Lewen as applied to claims 29, 17, and 29 above, and further in view of Mauro (EP 0 410 378 A2). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following arguments.

In responding to the Examiner's previous rejections, Applicants erroneously argued the issue of "TV Quality" which is found in dependent claim 6 rather than independent claim 1. The proper argument should have focused on the issue of the "control[ling] the transport of video signals along the video signal path." Perhaps this is why the thrust of the Office Action was directed toward "TV quality". In the interview with the Examiner on May 15, 2001, the Examiner and Applicants refocused the direction of the arguments to further advance the prosecution of this application. Respectfully, Applicants now direct their arguments to the issue of "transport of video signals."

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Regarding independent claims 1, 14, and 25, the Examiner has cited Conway for teaching or suggesting that at least one control communications link (37) is configured for controlling the transport of video signals along a communications path (28). *See*, Conway, Fig. 7. Here the Examiner is asserting the control signals and mechanisms that control the direction of a camera teaches or suggests controlling the video signals provided by that camera, and thus the directing of those signals over a separate communication path. Applicants respectfully disagree. An image provided by a camera may be changed by a variety of factors including pointing the camera in a different direction (as suggested by Conway), placing a different object in the camera's view, or altering the settings of the camera such as focal length. Even though in each case the image may change, the video signals representing those images are transported (a standard term of art used in data communications and telecommunications) over the same video signal path in the same way. The video signal path is the same in each instance. Controlling the view of a camera is not the same as controlling a video signal path between workstations.

Applicants believe that the claims reflect this feature adequately. However, the Examiner may have been confused by references to transport of video signals. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 14, and 25 to broaden the claims by reciting the control of the video signal path rather than the control of the video signals transported over a communications path. The control of the video signal path is fully enabled in the application by Fig. 3 and the discussion regarding the Audio Video Network Manager beginning on page 32, line 21. These amendments contain no new matter. Further, Applicants have made amendments to claims 1, 14, and 25 to correct minor typographical errors.

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As Applicants discussed during the interview and reiterate herein, none of the cited references, Conway, Lewen, Nakajima, nor Mauro, recite the claimed limitation of controlling the video signal path between workstations. Thus, whether separately or in combination, the references do not teach or suggest all the limitations of the independent claims 1, 14, and 25, and therefore the *prima facie* case for obviousness must fail. See, MPEP §2143.03. Applicants contend that the independent claims are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons, and that the dependent claims 2-13, 15-24, and 26-36 are allowable as well.

The Examiner's rejections having been overcome, Applicants submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to discuss other changes deemed necessary. Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: September 25, 2001


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: September 25, 2001

Signed:

  
Thea K. Wagner

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**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

1. (Amended) A video communication system comprising:
  - (a) at least one video signal source;
  - (b) at least one video display device;
  - (c) at least one unshielded twisted pair of wires
    - (i) defining a video signal path
    - (ii) arranged for transport of video signals,
      - (1) originating at a video signal source,
      - (2) to at least one of the video display devices; and
  - (d) at least one control communication link,
    - (i) arranged for transmission of control signalswherein, the system is configured
  - (i) to respond to control signals,
    - (1) transmitted over the control communication link,
  - (ii) to control the [transport of the video signals,] video signal path, and
    - [(1) along the video signal path, and]
  - (iii) to cause video image reproduction
    - (1) based on the transported video signals
    - (2) on at least one of the video display devices.
14. (Amended) A method of [conduction] conducting video communications,  
over at least one unshielded twisted pair of wires

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defining a video signal path  
using a system including  
at least one signal source, and  
at least one video display device,  
the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating video signals,
  - (i) at one of the video signal sources;
- (b) transporting
  - (i) the generated video signals
  - (ii) to at least one of the display devices;
- (c) transmitting
  - (i) control signals
  - (ii) over a control communication link,
- (d) responding to the control signals
  - (i) to control the video signal [transportation] path; and  
[(1) along video signal path; and]
- (e) reproducing video images
  - (i) based on the controlled, transported video signals
  - (ii) on at least one of the video display devices.

25. (Amended) A video communication system  
for operation with an infrastructure including  
at least one video signal source;  
at least one video display device;  
an unshielded twisted pair of wires of  
defining a  
video signal path,  
arranged for transport of video signals; and  
the system comprising:

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- at least one control communication link,
  - arranged for transmission of control signals,
- (a) control components configured
  - (i) to respond to control signals
    - (1) transmitted over the control communication link,
  - (ii) to control the [transport of video signals] video signal path
    - [(1) generated by a video signal source,]
    - [(2) along the video signal path,]
    - [(3)1] to at least two workstations, and
  - (iii) to cause video image reproduction
    - (1) based on the transported video signals
    - (2) on at least one of the video displays.